

Beautiful Bellville, Where Maria Mayo Scott Was Wedded

By ALICE M. TYLER

A modest paragraph inconspicuously placed in a column of the Richmond Enquirer of March 18, 1817, records the wedding on Tuesday evening, March 11, of General Winfield Scott, United States Army, and Miss Maria D. Mayo, daughter of Colonel John Mayo and Mrs. Abigail de Hart Mayo, of Bellville, then one of the most famous of Richmond suburban homes.

As an example of brevity, good taste and refinement of expression, the paragraph might be offered as a model to Richmond brides of the present day. Bellville then stood a short distance in front of the spot on which the main building of Richmond College has since been erected. The approach to the mansion was by a carriage road winding among surrounding cottages and fields. John Bell, a Scotchman, designed the house, and had it built and named for himself during the first years of the nineteenth century. Reverses in business obliged Mr. Bell to sell the home on which he had expended so much thought and care, and Colonel John Mayo, residing at the Hermitage, became its owner. Colonel Mayo was the son of the fourth John Mayo of his name in Virginia, who married Mary Tabb, of Gloucester, represented Chesterfield, Henrico and Cumberland counties in the House of Burgesses and the Conventions of 1775 and 1776, and was buried with his wife at Powhatan seat. His son, John Mayo V., was born at Deep Creek, Powhatan county, October 21, 1790, educated at William and Mary College, and married, in his turn, Miss Abigail de Hart, of Elizabethtown, New Jersey. In the year 1811 he was living at the Hermitage, a little more than a mile from Richmond. Hermitage Golf Club has been built on its site. His daughter, Maria, brilliant and handsome, was a reigning belle, possessed of a rare quality that rendered her a constructive force to men and women. Other children of the household were: Edward C., born in 1791, and Julia, the wife of Dr. Robert H. Cabell, of Richmond. Edward C. Mayo and his wife, Adeline, daughter of Joseph Marx, of this city, were the grandparents of Edward C. Mayo, of 514 West Franklin Street, the owner of a fine collection of Randolph portraits and miniatures through his mother, who in her girlhood days was Miss Kate Randolph of Wilton.

Arbiters of Good Taste and Good Breeding.

To be a reigning belle in early nineteenth century Richmond society was no small feat. Indeed, for entertainments then given by people of quality brought together many guests of national as well as State importance, many who had formed their standards by what they had seen and known at foreign courts and in older civilization, and were considered arbiters in questions of good taste and good breeding. Innumerable are the stories told of Maria Mayo's triumphs, of the lovers who knelt in vain at her feet, of her determination to rank General Scott as the underest in the list of those who had sued for her favor, and of her determination to keep him waiting, if need be, until his ninety-ninth birthday had been sent about his business by this adept mistress in the art of winning and rejecting hearts and hands.

The future of General Scott from France early in the year 1817 brought about the ending of one phase of Miss Mayo's career and inaugurated another period in which she, as a matron, shone resplendent beside her husband for years. Bellville made a splendid setting for the crowning event of her life, celebrated within its walls on March 11. Wedding presents in this, Miss Mayo's day came only from the groom or near relatives, and were not put on display. But in the main halls and the drawing room at Bellville the magnificent cutglass chandeliers were ablaze. Every door was thrown hospitably open and carriage after carriage, driven by pompous family coachmen, rolled up the driveway and deposited guests, who passed up the double flight of marble steps, and so into the splendid interior beyond.

The quality and sheen of the bride's satin gown was not commented upon by the Enquirer. Nor did the press of the day say what her jewelry and lace were, nor whether her bridal wreath was of real orange blossoms. That she was a charming picture in every respect there is no room to doubt, nor that the groom was a gallant and striking figure as he took his stand



MRS. ADELINE MARX MAYO,
Wife of Edward C. Mayo I.

beside her. The ceremony, on which family and friends looked with approval, was performed by the Rev. John Buchanan, of St. John's Church, on the Hill, who had come to Richmond from Scotland in the year 1713, and "lived in a small wooden house situated near Mayo's house, suited to his condition of bachelorhood."

Mrs. Mayo Devoted to Social Pleasures.

Mrs. John Mayo was devoted to social pleasures, and her pride and pleasure in the nuptials of her beloved daughter were evident in her countenance, and were reflected in the genial smile worn by Colonel Mayo, the host, as these two moved among their neighbors and townfolk and heard the murmurs of admiration and the congratulations offered the bride and groom on every side. Those townfolk included the Gibbons, the Chevaliers, the Gallegos, the Gambles, the Marshalls, the Carrys, the Carters, of Shirley; Judge John Brockenbrough, of the Court of Appeals; the Carys, of Amphill; the Beverlys, the Upshurs, the St. George Tuckers, the "Three Graces," as the daughters of Major Edmund Christian, of Craighton, Charles City county—one of them the wife of John Tyler, President of the United States—were called; the Leighs, the Richies, the Rutherfords, the Carlingtons, the Prices, the Bullocks, the Blairs, the Harvies, the Cunninghams, Pages, Wickhams, the Randolphs, Harisons, Lyons and hundreds of others, desirous of doing honor to the auspicious occasion and themselves.

Probably the most imposing figure at the wedding ceremony and supper was the autocrat of the dining room, the Bellville butler, proud to the last degree of so fine an opportunity to welcome in the quality and let them see his creditable care of the spotless linen, the polished silver and glass, the sideboard, whereon the many decanters reposed, and the dining-room, with its wonderfully spread and decorated board, gleaming under an array of every delicacy which taxed ingenuity could procure or devise.

The stately courtesy of the day, the elegant costumes worn by the elders present were matched by the gay vivacity and more simply adorned beauty of the friends of the bride, who gathered about her and the groom, drinking toasts and exchanging merry jests. The bringing in of the wedding cake, borne aloft on a silver salver by the butler, and the cutting of the first slice by the bride amidst her maidens was a pretty bit of sentiment, to linger pleasantly in the memories of friends whose circle was about to be broken by the departure of one of the brightest and queenliest of them all.

All of this happened, as has been said, in March of 1817. For a year more the green and yellow coaches and the olive-colored chariot rolled on alternate days out of the gates of Bellville, bearing Colonel Mayo to the tollgate on the bridge over James River called by his name, to receive dues collected during the past twenty-four hours. Just a little more than a year, for Colonel Mayo died May 28, 1818, and left the restoration of his fortunes in the capable hands of his widow.

Remarkable Woman, of Great Personal Dignity.

Her good management and business



MRS. ABIGAIL DE HART MAYO,
Wife of Colonel John Mayo, of Bellville.

qualifications proved equal to the demand upon them. As he had done, so did she collect the tollgate dues, the hour of collection being changed from 10 to 12 o'clock, to suit the convenience of the mistress of a mansion. Her children wedded and departed from the parental roof; this remarkable woman, of great personal dignity, maintained her state alone at Bellville, her servants living outside in separate dwellings. To the south of the mansion were situated the stables, where were kept in state the coaches and chariots in which Mrs. Mayo went abroad on errands of business or pleasure.

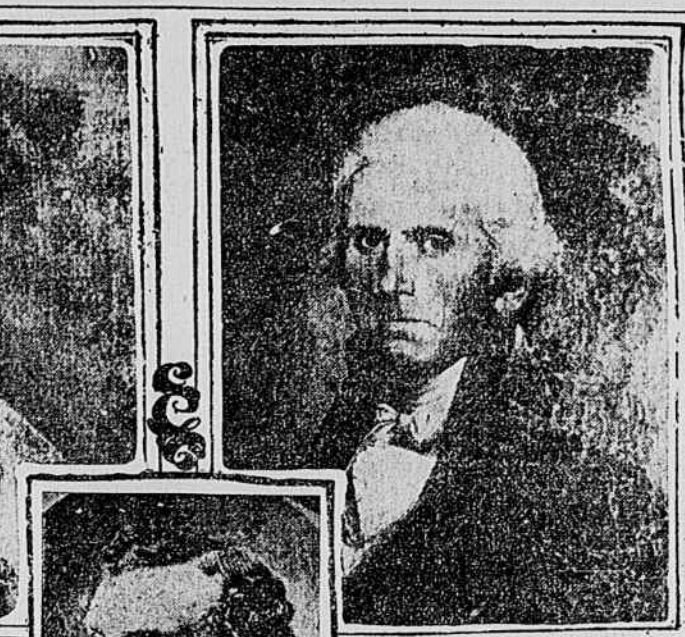
Life still held for Mrs. Mayo varied interests and amusements. Many of her evenings were spent in town, where she and her friends gathered around the card table or exchanged witty remarks at dinner parties then greatly in vogue. The attendance of an overindulgent coachman, who spent hours on the box in the rain and snow, or urged his horses back and forth over muddy roads, stretching between the city and Bellville, resulted, however, in a lamentable tragedy just before an expected arrival of General and Mrs. Scott to visit Mrs. Mayo.

The visitors were looked for at the unearthly hour of 2 o'clock in the morning, the trains over the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railway having not then reached their latter-day schedule of promptness and regularity. The grumbling Jehu had been directed by Mrs. Mayo to build a fire in the apartment to be occupied by General Scott and his wife early in the day before their arrival and to keep it burning brightly. He kindled two fires, it is believed, instead of the one in the Scotts' chamber, locating the second mistakenly at an opposite point in the attic, just under the eaves, where sparks from the fire already burning could have caught on the shingles of the roof.

The day had been blustery; the evening was equally so. The guilty coachman, who was convicted in the minds of those present coming quickly to Mrs. Mayo's assistance and succoring in getting her out of the flame-devoured house and in saving much valuable furniture, including family portraits and silver, was never brought to trial. Like the fool who destroyed the Temple of Diana, he has been known solely as the treacherous agent through whose act of vandalism Bellville was blotted out of existence.

Destroyed by Flames.

The house was built so strongly that it seemed calculated to defy the inroads of time for years to come. Its thick foundation walls, the resting



COLONEL JOHN MAYO,
Owner of Bellville and collector of toll dues from Mayo's Bridge.

W. C. Mayo, of Denver, has a son, Robert Randolph Mayo, and John Mayo, of Fluvanna, one daughter, Miss Gertrude Mayo.

A daughter of Edward C. Mayo and Adeline Marx, his wife, was Mrs. Gracie, of New York, the mother of Colonel Archibald Gracie, associated with the recent Titanic disaster, and of Miss Adeline Gracie. Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Roberts, of New York, and Miss Julia Mayo were three remaining daughters. The late George W. Mayo, of Richmond, was a son of this branch of the family. His widow, Mrs. Louise Randolph Mayo, and his sons, George D. and Arthur Randolph Mayo, are residents of Richmond. Another son, Lewis, has his home in the South; Mrs. Frederick Palen, a daughter, lives in Newport News, and Mrs. Burton Gay, formerly Miss Louise Mayo, in Cleveland, O.

Until the latter years of his life, which were spent in Washington, D. C. William C. Mayo, brother of George W. Mayo, and married to Miss Ellen Wise, daughter of Henry A. Wise, Governor of Virginia, was also a Richmond resident. His daughters, Mrs. W. T. Oppenheimer, and Mrs. St. Julian Oppenheimer live here. Miss Mary Mayo is now Mrs. Crenshaw, wife of a prominent civil engineer, and Miss Anne Mayo, Mrs. Latimer, has her home in Chicago, Ill.

Edward Mayo, father of Edward C. Mayo, of 514 West Franklin Street, married for the second time Miss Elizabeth Brander, of Richmond, noted alike for her great beauty and her sweetness of disposition, qualities which ranked her as an admired social leader, and have gained and kept all Richmond as her friends. She now resides at 800 West Grace Street, and her walls there are hung with the Mayo portraits. Her apartments also contain many rare and beautiful pieces of furniture, which have come down through the Mayo family for generations.

It seems a pity that so fine an estate as Bellville, the value of which would now be something enormous, should have passed from the hands of its original owners by the exigencies of war and the hard years that came after. Certainly no one of the historic places with which present Richmond contains many rare and beautiful pieces of furniture, which have come down through the Mayo family for generations.

Miss Maria D. Mayo, as Mrs. Winfield Scott, made good her reputation as a beauty and a wit in society at home and abroad. She died in Rome, Italy, and lies with General Scott in the West Point Cemetery. Places and names of an earlier day have thus their natural and inevitable passing. But those that are gone repeat the story of work and success in descendants who are in Richmond of today, in Virginia and in Denver, Col., where John Mayo, of Fluvanna county, and William C. Mayo, brothers of Edward Mayo, of Richmond, live,

than in the day of its full tide of prosperity and through the undiminished, unscattered members of its household.

HOT SPRING

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Hot Springs, Va., May 11.—Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth's riding party, in which were Miss Helen Taft, Major C. F. Allen, U. S. A., Lieutenant G. H. Radcliff, U. S. N., and C. M. Ramsdell, of Buffalo, which left Washington April 28, arrived at Hot Springs early this week, and the night of their arrival were guests at dinner at the Homestead of Mrs. Southernland, of Washington, wife of Rear-Admiral William H. Southernland, and Miss Harriet Southernland. Miss Taft, after spending the night with the Southernlands, returned to Washington the next morning by train. The rest of the party stayed until Wednesday at the Warm Springs Hotel, then continued their trip through West Virginia and into Pennsylvania. Miss Josephine Mather, of Philadelphia, joined them here and went on with them.

The ride, which will occupy thirty days, is one taken annually by Mrs. Wadsworth from Washington to her summer home in the Genesee Valley, New York. It is made by easy stages and shared by numerous friends, who join her along the way. The route followed from Washington led through the Valley of Virginia to Natural Bridge and Rock Alum Springs. The party was seen on the mountainside for an hour or more by visitors at the Warm Springs Hotel before they arrived. Both Mrs. Wadsworth and Miss Taft rode side saddles and wore dark tan riding habits. They brought evening dress with them in a commodious wagon which accompanied them, and after dinner attended the dance in the Homestead ballroom. Miss Taft wore a taffeta empire frock of "Helen" pink, and was not too fatigued to enjoy several dances.

A law suit brought against Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont by J. T. McAllister, an attorney of Hot Springs, which has been in process since 1908, was decided this week by the Circuit Court of Bath county in favor of Mr. McAllister, who was given a judgment against Mrs. Belmont of \$12,000. The suit involved Mrs. Belmont's breach of a contract she made with Mr. McAllister to develop a site of land a mile south of the Homestead, owned by her, and known as Belmont Park, into a pleasure and sporting ground. It was lengthened by the question of advice given Mrs. Belmont by Mr. and Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr. Mrs. Belmont sold the property last summer to Mrs. Jean Wilkie, of New York, who proposes to build a country house upon it.

Mr. and Mrs. George Ganton left Hot Springs several days ago by automobile for New York. They will stay for two weeks or more and return by automobile. They are expecting Mrs. Ganton's son-in-law and daughter, Baron and Baroness Rosenkrantz, who live in London, to spend the early summer with them. The barons had almost decided to cross on the Titanic

with Major Archibald Butt, who was her cousin.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Livingston Beekman, of Newport, are taking the "kur" and riding daily. Mrs. Beekman is known as one of the finest horsewomen who come to Hot Springs. On her semi-annual visits she usually rides Shipman, the most spirited horse in the Homestead stables. Last autumn she never appeared twice in the same riding habit.

The Rev. Alan Williams, vicar of St. Mary's Church, Warwick, England, who spent a week here, left Thursday for Washington, where he will be for several days before sailing for England next week. He came here from a tour through the West Indies and Panama.

Mr. and Mrs. Archibald McCrae, of New York, arrived here this week and have opened Barton Lodge, where they, with Mrs. McCrae's daughters, the Misses Mercer, Margaret, Sarah and LeMayne Dunlop, will spend the summer. They have a three years' lease on the lodge, which is the villa of Mrs. Seth Barton French.

Justice William H. Jackson, of the Supreme Court of Panama, and Mrs. Jackson arrived here this week and are occupying Three-Top Bungalow, J. T. McAllister's rustic lodge, near the Daniel Boone Cabin.

Hamilton King, who has a studio near the Boone Cabin, is expected within a few days. He has been abroad for several months, and will come here directly from Berlin.

Mr. and Mrs. Lanier Dunn, who own the Dunn homestead, near Dunn's Gap, have opened the house for the summer. They have seldom been here in recent years, having spent much of their time abroad. Their daughter, Mrs. Scott, of Richmond, with her family, will be with them.

Mrs. James Avery Norris went to New York Friday. She will spend a month with her sister, Mrs. Theodore Tunnely, and will attend the graduation of her daughter, Miss Helen Norris, at Miss Dana's school, in Morristown, the first week in June. She gave a bridge party at the Presbyterian manse before leaving, inviting, among others, Mrs. E. S. Wheeler, of Buffalo; Mrs. Schrienerhorn, Miss Read, of Baltimore; Mrs. Frank Hopkins and Edgar A. Pole.

Mrs. R. Nelson Hineckley will leave for New York to-morrow, to be gone till the last of May. She will visit her daughters, Mrs. Cornelius W. Wickorsham, at Cedarhurst, and Mrs. T. R. Williams, at Lawrence, L. I. While she is in New York Mrs. C. H. Ditson is planning to give a musicale in her honor.

Mr. and Mrs. R. Livingston Beekman, with Mr. and Mrs. Frank McNair and Harold Swift, of Chicago, made up a supper party at The Oaks a night or two ago. Mr. and Mrs. William W. Peake, of New York; Miss Mildred Eddy, of Morristown, and Mrs. Bertram G. Work, of Akron, Ohio, rode over to Oak Grove for supper, and were also visitors at luncheon at The Oaks.

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HARRISONBURG

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

Harrisonburg, Va., May 11.—Lieutenant L. C. Myers is visiting his daughter, Mrs. C. B. Richardson, in Richmond.

Mrs. Fred Blakemore, of Washington, will spend the summer with her father-in-law, William Blakemore, of Spring Creek.

Miss Madeline White, of Boston, is the guest of Miss Mary Dorsey Spha.

Miss Moll Payne returned yesterday from a visit to her aunt, Mrs. Eppa Hinton, in Richmond.


Mr. and Mrs. H. A. W. Happer, of Richmond, are visiting the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Decher.

Rev. J. Sitor Garrison has returned from Broadway, where he made the address at the High School commencement.

Miss Erva Payne is visiting relatives in Washington.

Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Eastham went to New York last night, and met their daughter, Mrs. Willmet Lincum, who arrived from China to spend the summer here.

Mrs. Weimar, principal of the Mary Baldwin Seminary, Staunton, and Miss Hiddle, of the faculty, were recent visitors at the State Normal School.



Woman's Danger Period

From 45 to 50

This is a most critical period of a woman's existence, and the anxiety felt by women as it draws near is not without reason.

Every woman who neglects the care of her health at this time invites disease and pain.

When her system is in a deranged condition, or she is predisposed to apoplexy or congestion of any organ, the tendency is at this period likely to become active—and with a host of nervous irritations, make life a burden. At this time, also, cancers and tumors are more liable to form, and begin their destructive work.

Such warning symptoms as sense of suffocation from hot flashes, headaches, backaches, dread of impending evil, timidity, sounds in the ears, palpitation of the heart, sparks before the eyes, irregularities, constipation, variable appetite, weakness and inquietude, and dizziness are promptly heeded by intelligent women who are approaching the period in life when woman's great change may be expected.

These symptoms are all just so many calls from nature for help. **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound** is prepared to meet the needs of women's system at this trying period of her life. No other medicine is so universally successful, and so favorably known. It invigorates and strengthens the organism and builds up the weakened nervous system.

Interesting Experience of Two Women.

ASHEVILLE, N.C.—"I suffered for years while going through the Change of Life. I tried a local physician for a couple of years without any substantial benefit. Finally after repeated suggestions to try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, I quit my physician and commenced using it with the happiest results. I am today practically a well woman and anxious to contribute my mite towards inducing others to try your great medicine, as I am fully persuaded that it will cure the ailments from which I suffered if given a fair chance. If you think this letter will contribute anything toward further introducing your medicines to afflicted women who are passing through this trying period, it is with great pleasure I consent to its publication."—Mrs. JULIA A. MOORE, 17 East St., Asheville, N.C.

CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO.—"I can truthfully say that I never had anything do me so much good during Change of Life as Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. Before I had taken one half a bottle of it I began to feel better, and I have continued taking it. My health is better than it has been for several years. If all women would take it they would escape untold pain and misery at this time of life."—Mrs. ALICE KIRLIN, 353 West Mill Street, Circleville, Ohio.

A HANDSOME REWARD WILL BE GIVEN

to any person who will prove that any of our testimonial letters constantly being published in the daily newspapers are not genuine and truthful, or that any of these women were paid in any way to give their testimonials or that the letters were published without their permission or that all the original letters did not come to us entirely unsolicited.

THE LYDIA E. PINKHAM MEDICINE CO., Lynn, Mass.